

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 762

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4440

EXDIS

ATTENTION: UN TASK FORCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, OCLR, UN XF

SUBJ: UN AIRLIFT AND LOGISTICS

1. IN CONVERSATION ENVENING C.A. 1900 HOURS NOV 2, ASYG
URQUHART TOLD AMB SCHAUFLE UN NOW HAS TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS:

A. RESTRICTIONS ON AIRLIFT WERE CAUSING GREAT
DIFFICULTIES. UN TRYING TO MAINTAIN BALANCE AND HAS
UP TO NOW, BUT USSR BECOMING "ENORMOUSLY LIBERAL" ON
AIRLIFT. UN TRYING TO INCREASE USE OF UK AND FRENCH.

B. THEY ARE EXACTLY NOWHERE ON LOGISTICAL
PROBLEMS. CANADIAN MAINTENANCE BATTALION (ESPECIALLY
ORGANIZED FOR PEACEKEEPING DUTIES) IS AN INTEGRATED
UNIT OF 900, AND CANADIANS WILL NOT SPLIT IT. EGYPT,
ON OTHER HAND, DOES NOT LIKE THIS LARGE A UNIT.
URQUHART ADMITS THAT BATTALION IS TOO LARGE FOR
PRESENT FORCE BUT WILL BE THE PROPER SIZE IF REMAINDER
OF FORCE IS PUT IN PLACE. HE ADDED THAT POLES
HERE DO NOT HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHAT LOGISTICS TO PERFORM.
THEY WILL HAVE TO SEND OFFICERS TO NEW YORK TO COORDINATE
WITH UN AND CANADIANS BEFORE THEY CAN GET A UNIT
ORGANIZED AND DESPATCHED.
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2. URQUHART WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT UNEF HAS NO
LOGISTICS STAFF, NO LOGISTICS UNIT AND NO MOVEMENT CONTROLS.
SUPPLIES ARE ARRIVING IN CAIRO AND DISORGANIZATION ON
THE GROUND IS ALMOST COMPLETE. NO MEDICAL UNIT

IS AVAILABLE. ACTUALLY SIILASVUO CAN NOT
RECEIVE ANY MORE UNITS WITHOUT ANY MORE SUPPORT. IN
PRINCIPLE, ONE SHOULD NOT INCREASE THE FORCE IF IT CAN'T
BE TAKEN CARE OF. THE UN HAS REQUESTED THE ADVICE OF
SIILASVUO AS TO HOW TO HANDLE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF
THE FACT THAT LOGISTICS UNIT NOT YET AVAILABLE AND
QUESTION OF FURTHER TROOP CONTINGENTS NOT YET SETTLED.
COMMENT: URQUHART QGREES WITH US POSITION ON HOLDING
AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE IF THEY CANNOT BE USED. HE DID NOT
LINK THIS QUESTION TO THE GROWING LIBERALITY OF THE USSR
BUT WE SUSPECT THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEAR SOVIET
MONOPOLY ON AIR TRANSPORT TO UNEF.

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